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PROGRAM Today Show STATION WRC TV  
NBC Network

DATE May 21, 1982 7:00 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Interview with Stansfield Turner

CHRIS WALLACE: Back with us this morning to help us sort out the latest developments in the Falklands crisis is NBC's military analysis former CIA Director Stansfield Turner. Good morning, Admiral.

STANSFIELD TURNER: Morning, Chris.

WALLACE: As we've just heard, the British have landed on the Falklands. What do you expect? Hit and run commando raids or an all out assault?

TURNER: I believe the hit and run is a preferable tactic from both a military and a diplomatic point of view, Chris. Militarily, if they move around and hit different points where the Argentines have forces, they're taking advantage of the fact that where there're ships, they're mobile, where their helicopters can reach in a good distance. Now in addition, about half of the Argentine forces are concentrated at the capital, Port Stanley, that means they're rather thin out here and the British disadvantage in numbers can be compensated for in that way.

Diplomatically, if the British should assault Port Stanley, and really beat them up and capture it, it would be a great humiliation for Argentina. That would make further negotiation much more difficult. The Argentines might have to capitulate but they couldn't make concessions and negotiate and that means the British will simply have to occupy and garrison those islands for a long time to come.

WALLACE: As you know though, there are reports out of the British Defense Ministry -- sources, nothing official -- that they may decide to make an all out assault because the British have decided that the Argentines are not very strong; 60% of their

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troops up here in Port Stanley apparently are very raw conscripts -- just 60 days in the service, and they might be able to score a quick victory.

TURNER: Oh, that's possible. But from the British point of view, the risks are certainly greatest in going to Port Stanley. They may lose the whole thing if they do that. I think they'll try these others, try to put enough pressure on by demonstrating that they can mop them up, one by one, wherever they're located and eventually take Port Stanley if they have to.

WALLACE: Alright, now what does Argentina do? They don't just sit there, apparently they're being hit all over: Botsay(?), Gosgrane(?), what do they do?

TURNER: If these are small hit and run raids, these are not good targets -- the British forces -- for the Argentine air force, they won't have a lot of equipment ashore: tanks and armor, personnel carriers and that kind of thing. I think the Argentines' best chance is to use their air force to get the British at their most vulnerable point, the aircraft carriers which have to come in reasonably close to conduct this assault.

WALLACE: Or a big hit.

TURNER: If they can have a big hit on those, they can turn the whole tide of the battle.

WALLACE: One last thing, you apparently have a late report on the weather in the Falklands area.

TURNER: The weather was bad yesterday. It apparently improved over the night. Today, it's reasonable, 15 to 25 knots of wind and good visibility. It's likely to stay that way through tomorrow but starts deteriorating tomorrow night and be bad on Sunday so the British have a window here -- they've obviously taken advantage of it.

WALLACE: Admiral Stanfield Turner, thank you. And stay with us as we hear any more developments down in the Falklands.